


June 5, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Frank J. Filas, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Site Inspection, Pandora - M/037/012, Far West - M/037/019,
Standard II - ACT/037/011, Louise - M/037/013, IVY -
M/037/034, and Standard I - M/037/005

On May 21, 1987, Frank Filas of the Division and Richard Blubaugh of Atlas Minerals inspected the above referenced mines.

The Pandora Mine is just east of Umetco's LaSal decline. The site has several well maintained buildings, a decline, and pad area. The large waste piles on the south end of the site will represent the greatest challenge in eventual reclamation. Atlas does not plan to add significantly to these waste piles; however, and there is adequate room at the toe of the piles to grade them to a gentler angle. There are significant reserves of high-grade ore at the Pandora, and it is unlikely that Atlas will want to reclaim this mine in the near future. No safety or erosion hazards were observed.

The Far West Mine was the site of Atlas's main offices and shops for the Big Indian area. Previous inspections reported a large amount of junk and trash onsite. All this material has been removed, and only the buildings remain. There was a minor amount of erosion on the pad area which Atlas said they would repair, otherwise the site was very clean and without problems.

The Standard II Mine is located approximately three miles south of the Small Fry turnoff and is accessed by a one-half mile dirt road. The portals above have been blasted shut. There does not appear to be much that can be done with the waste pile which is sitting on a steep slope. Atlas hopes to sell the low-grade ore stockpile that is located further to the north. If this proves impractical, there is sufficient room above and below to grade this pile to a gentler angle. There is considerable runoff going through this area, but it appears to be well controlled. Care will have to be taken during reclamation to maintain the existing runoff control.

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We stopped briefly at the Louise Mine, which is located a couple of miles south of the Standard II. No problems of any kind were observed at this site.

The Ivy Mine is located in the canyon just to the north of the canyon where the MiVida, McCormick, and Standard I are located. It is accessed from the west by a dirt road. It is a relatively small site that Atlas has not operated since the 1970's. The pad area was recontoured several years back and shows only minor erosion. Reclamation of this site would require placement of a bulkhead in the shop portal, backfilling of the mine portal, and recontouring of the small waste pile. Scarification and seeding would cover a maximum of two acres. (Note: The Expectation Mine - M/037/028 is located further up this canyon.)

The Standard I Mine is located on the steep valley wall, across the road from the McCormick Mine and just downhill from the MiVida decline. The site is relatively small and covers about five acres at the most. The buildings at this site are in disrepair and there is a small amount of trash lying about. The decline is secured with a heavy wooden gate. Previous Division inspections reported considerable erosion on the steep waste pile. This has been corrected by sloping the pad back towards the canyon wall and channeling the runoff along the wall and around the pile. It does not appear that there is any practical way to reclaim the wastepile slopes, and it is recommended that reclamation consist of blasting the portal, building removal, cleanup, and revegetation of the pad area.

clj
cc: L. Braxton
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